

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, December 14, 2015.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate of the City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Helen Rafferty, Willem Scheltema and Magdalene Fuchs, and former residents Catherine Vanderzon, James Joseph Schultz and Mary Ellen Lentz. Mr. Roberts then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Davis moved that the consent agenda be approved. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Work Session, August 31, 2015

Work Session, November 9, 2015

Charter Meeting, November 9, 2015

Approved as Presented

Appointment of Councilmembers to City Boards and Committees: Council approved the following liaison assignments to various City advisory boards and committees:

Advisory Committee on Education	- Ms. Mach
Advisory Planning Board	- Ms. Davis
Arts Advisory Board	- Ms. Davis
Community Relations Advisory Board	- Mr. Putens
Forest Preserve Advisory Board	- Mr. Roberts
Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability	- Mr. Herling
Park and Recreation Advisory Board	- Mr. Jordan
Public Safety Advisory Committee	- Ms. Pope
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee	- Ms. Pope
Youth Advisory Committee	- Mr. Roberts
Anacostia Trails Heritage Association	- Ms. Davis

Appointment of Councilmembers to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

Policy Boards and Committees: Council approved the following appointments to COG's policy boards and committees for 2016:

Board of Directors	- Mayor Jordan
Alternate	- Ms. Davis
Transportation Planning Board	- Mr. Roberts
Alternate	- Mr. Herling

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Comm.	-	Ms. Mach
Alternate	-	Mr. Herling
Region Forward Coalition	-	Mr. Jordan
Alternate	-	Ms. Davis
Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee	-	Mr. Putens
Alternate	-	Ms. Pope
Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee	-	Mr. Herling
Alternate	-	Ms. Mach
Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee	-	Ms. Davis
Alternate	-	Mr. Putens

Appointment to Advisory Group: Council appointed Katherine McElhenny to the Advisory Committee on Education and Julia Sharapi to the Youth Advisory Committee.

Reappointment to Advisory Group: Council reappointed Isabelle Gournay to a new term on the Advisory Planning Board.

Resignations from Advisory Groups: Council accepted the resignation of John Berard from the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Chuck Bean, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), provided an update on COG.

PUBLIC HEARING: Ms. Davis moved that Council recess the regular meeting in order to hold a Public Hearing. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Mayor Jordan recessed the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Acquisition of 10-A Crescent Road: Megan Searing Young, Museum Director, provided a presentation detailing the benefits and potential uses of 10-A Crescent Road for the Greenbelt Museum. She said that the unit could become the office space for museum staff which would enable the museum to be available for tours on a more frequent basis, as well as provide space for hosting larger tour groups and researchers and present a comparison of original Greenbelt homes “then and now.” Ms. Searing Young noted that the Dwyers, the owners of the unit, had always been good neighbors to the museum, sharing information with interested visitors when the museum was closed. She added that the Dwyers resided in the home for 59 years and as such it is unknown when the unit might become available again.

Sandra Lange, an original member of the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM), spoke about the original vision for the museum. She said the current Greenbelt Museum building was acquired in 1987 as part of the City’s 50th anniversary and even at that time, persons associated

with the museum had expressed an interest in 10-A being acquired as well for the expansion of museum services. Ms. Lange explained she was speaking on behalf of the original founders and urged Council to approve the purchase of 10-A for the Greenbelt Museum.

Pamela Gregory, Vice-President of FOGM Board, commented on the large number of FOGM members in attendance, including several past presidents and board members. She said FOGM urges Council to approve the purchase of 10-A for the Greenbelt Museum.

Isabelle Gournay, 7 Woodland Way, spoke in support of the acquisition.

Barbara Simon, President of Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC), said GCDC had not had the opportunity to discuss the acquisition. She said she personally supported the acquisition.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, asked if the unit would remain a Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) home if it was to be purchased by the City. Mr. McLaughlin said yes and explained that the City is a member of GHI and responsible for the GHI cooperative fee as owner of 10-B Crescent Road. He said the purchase of 10-A would be the same.

Lee Shields, Past President and current FOGM Board of Directors member, spoke in support of the acquisition.

Mary Curinski, Past President of FOGM, spoke in support of the acquisition.

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, spoke in support of the acquisition. He suggested the City look for creative financing for the acquisition.

Matt Johnson, 7929 Mandan Road, FOGM Board of Directors Member, spoke in support of the acquisition.

Mr. Roberts asked if FOGM had any interest in owning the house. Ms. Searing Young and Ms. Lauren, FOGM Treasurer, said this idea had been discussed by the FOGM Board. Ms. Lauren Silberman explained that FOGM is not in a financial position to take on a mortgage. She added that FOGM is taking on the utility costs of the new unit as well as some other upgrade work in partnership with the City.

The meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

Mr. Putens moved that Council direct staff to prepare a resolution for the acquisition of 10-A Crescent Road for expansion of the Greenbelt Museum to be introduced at the next meeting. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Dinah Cohen, Alexandra Nickel, Kate Snook, Ryley Komisar-Bury, Maia Swisdak, Holly Kane and Julia May, members of the Greenbelt based Labradoodles Robotics Team, spoke about a robotic project they are working on to help clean trash in the lake. Council thanked the members for the presentation.

Bill Norwood, 6-B Parkway, submitted a report he had prepared on sound levels from the 2015 Labor Day Festival.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked about several executive sessions of Council.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin reported that the annual Festival of Lights events last weekend had gone very well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Design Services Required for the Redesign of Existing Parking Facilities and the Incorporation of Stormwater Best Management Practices at the Buddy Attick Park Parking Lot with Bradley Site Design, Inc., of Washington DC, at a Cost of \$33,700

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Ms. Davis seconded.

Mr. Roberts said he will not support any plans that include the removal of trees. Ms. Bellah, Community Planner, explained that the Bradley Site Design proposal is only for services required for the redesign of existing parking facilities at the Buddy Attick Park. She said when the design plans have been developed, they would be presented to Council.

Ms. Mach asked if interpretive signage would be included. Ms. Bellah said signage could be included in the implementation stage if funding was available. She added that grant opportunities may be possible for the signage.

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, expressed concern regarding the possible loss of trees associated with this project. He suggested pervious surfaces be considered as well as interpretive signage (including braille) with the signage set at a height to accommodate those individuals in wheelchairs. Mr. Herling asked about providing signage in multiple languages.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	-	Yes
	Mr. Herling	-	Yes
	Ms. Mach	-	Yes
	Ms. Pope	-	Yes
	Mr. Putens	-	Yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	Yes
	Mayor Jordan	-	Yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 2038, Book 8).

LETTER TO GOVERNOR HOGAN – SUPPORT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mayor Jordan explained that Council accepted a petition from Joshua Hamlin at the last meeting requesting Council consider taking an action (in form of a resolution) to: 1) welcome Syrian refugees to Greenbelt; and 2) urge local, state and federal leaders to work together to address the current Syrian refugee crisis by taking necessary steps to resettle refugees in the United States. He noted Governor Hogan's recent request that the federal government stop refugee resettlements in our State.

In response to a question from Mayor Jordan, Mr. McLaughlin and Ms. Ruff explained the City's standing practices on the use of resolutions and letters. They noted it has been the practice of Council to use letters for actions for this type of matter.

Mayor Jordan said with so many things going on in the world to become involved in or take stands on, he believes it's very important that Council focus on items within its control that affect the local community.

Ms. Mach said she thinks Council should send a letter indicating that Greenbelt is a welcoming place for everyone.

Mr. Herling agreed with Ms. Mach. He said he would like to have the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) and the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA) identify the challenges for refugees in our community and how best to assist with the challenges.

Mr. Roberts said there are very few issues that Council should not take a stand/position on. He said Council should take a strong stand and send a resolution in this situation.

Ms. Davis said she supported Council sending a letter but noted everyone as individuals need to take some action to help the refugees who come to Greenbelt, such as sponsoring a family. Ms. Davis added that many residents are opposed to Council taking any action.

Ms. Pope said she learned that Greenbelt is a very welcoming place when she relocated here from Germany many years ago. She said that while she supports taking personal action and helping the refugees, it should be done on an individual level. Ms. Pope said Council should not engage in national or federal topics, only local issues.

Mr. Putens said he had received many emails and phone calls from residents regarding Council taking an action on the refugee situation. He noted that one resident noted his opposition to Council taking action on a federal matter. Mr. Putens added that the resident reminded Council that during Council elections, forums and debates are held only on City issues.

Ms. Davis moved that Council send a letter to Governor Hogan to: 1) express support for welcome Syrian refugees to Greenbelt; and 2) urge local, state and federal leaders to work together to address the current Syrian refugee crisis by taking necessary steps to resettle refugees in the United States. She further moved that a copy of the letter be sent Senators Mikulski and Cardin, Congressman Hoyer, State Senators Pinsky and Miller, State Delegates Gaines, Healey, Washington and Busch, County Council Member Turner and County Executive Baker. Ms. Mach seconded.

Josh Hamlin, 117 Lastner Lane, stated that the refugee crisis is a local issue. He added that the position of the Governor is not consistent with Greenbelt's Community Pledge. Mr. Hamlin said Council should issue a resolution in place of sending a letter.

Brett Fishburn, 6 Pinecrest Court, spoke in support of Council sending a letter to Governor Hogan. He added that the matter may call for both a Council resolution and a letter.

Stephanie Warner, 14-N Laurel Hill Road, spoke in support of Council sending a letter to Governor Hogan. She also suggested that action be taken to educate residents about Muslims in the community and provide ways for residents to get to know their Muslim neighbors.

Melissa Ehrenreich, 23-D Ridge Road, spoke in support of Council's action and said Greenbelt should be one of the welcoming cities for refugees.

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, spoke in support of Council's action and said the State should welcome Syrian refugees.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, spoke in support of Council's action and asked that a copy of the letter be sent to other municipalities in District 22 so they may take the same action. She suggested the letter indicate what Greenbelt will do as far as resettlement for refugees. Ms. Rosenthal also suggested CRAB host educational forums on 1) understanding refugees and 2) what it means to be a Muslim.

Susan Stewart, 2-P Plateau Place, spoke in support of Council's action.

Marsha Voight, 162 Research Road, spoke in support of Council's action.

David Alexander, 106 Greenhill Road, spoke in support of Council's action.

David Lange, 12 Pinecrest Court, spoke in support of Council taking an action, but said it should be in the form of a resolution.

The motion passed 6-1. (Pope)

Ms. Davis moved that Council send a referral to CRAB asking them to review what actions the City should take regarding refugees. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) FOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Garth Beall, Renard Development, provided a summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS).

Ms. Davis expressed concern regarding the possibility of the perimeter fence crossing Indian Creek stream. She noted the negative impacts this would have on the stream and the wetlands area. Mr. Beall said it was unknown at this point the exact location of the perimeter fence and whether it will cross the creek.

Ms. Bellah, Community Planner, commented on staff's review of the DEIS. She noted that the DEIS overall has beneficial impacts on environmental conditions, as well as land use, employment and income, taxes, public health and safety, and the pedestrian network. Ms. Bellah said concerns identified included alteration of the skyline, traffic and public transit, and the location of the proposed connection to the Washington Gas transmission line.

After discussion, Ms. Davis moved that Council direct staff to draft a letter in support of the FBI locating at the Greenbelt Metro Station, pointing out the positives of that choice along with a willingness to assist however possible in correcting the adverse impacts and correcting some inaccuracies in the report. She further requested that Council hold a Special Meeting on January 4, 2016, to approve the letter so that it can be submitted by the January 6, 2016 deadline. Mayor Jordan seconded.

Mr. Roberts and Cary Coppick, 5-B Laurel Hill Road, expressed concern regarding the GSA purchase of the land instead of lease of the land. Council noted that this is a concern, but is not part of the DEIS.

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, requested that emphasis be placed on using alternative energy sources as well as pervious surfaces.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, said there was no proof from the results of the DEIS that the FBI will increase economic development.

The motion passed 7-0.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved Council approve the purchase of one (1) 2015 Kubota L3901HST Loader/Backhoe at a cost of \$29,958.55, and one (1) 2015 Kubota F2690 Front-Deck Mower at a cost of \$26,850.15, from Kubota Tractor Corporation in accord with National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) contract #070313-KBA. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Appreciation Celebration – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis

Festival of Lights Tree Lighting – All members of Council

Greenbelt Theater “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” movie – Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope

Greenbelt Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling

Festival of Lights Arts & Crafts Show – Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens, Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope

Jordan Choper’s 80th Birthday Celebration – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis

Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition Tree Lighting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope

Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony for Zachary Hoard and Christopher Sherman – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis

Greenbelt American Legion’s Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis

Presentation of FBI Draft Environmental Impact Study at Greenbelt Library – Mayor Jordan,

Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope

Prince George’s County Municipal Association Legislation Dinner – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis,

Mr. Putens, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 2015 Annual Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach

State Highway Administration Presentation of the Greenbelt Metro Interchange Project – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens and Ms. Mach

Art Reception at Greenbelt Federal Courthouse – Ms. Davis

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Yard Sale – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Pope

Senator Pinsky’s Town Hall Meeting – Mayor Jordan

Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service Annual Meeting – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Pope

Cora Rice and Prince George's County Police Annual Holiday Celebration at Eleanor Roosevelt High School – Mayor Jordan

Delegate Washington's Dinner for the Homeless – Mayor Jordan

Tamil Nadu Foundation Event for Victims of Cyclone and Flooding in India – Mayor Jordan

Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) Holiday Dinner – Ms. Pope

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Executive Session: Mr. Roberts moved to schedule an executive session related to Fraternal Order of Police grievance issues. No second was received.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, December 14, 2015, at 12:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held December 14, 2015."

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor